(a) the extent to which Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been allowed till date during the last three years;

(b) the number of FDI proposals under Governments consideration as on date; and

(c) the latest position of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% under the automatic route is allowed for most of the sectors. Some activities/sectors require prior Government approval and are placed before Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). FDI approvals and inflows for the last three years is as under:

Year		Approvals(US$ million)	Inflow (USS million)
2004-05		1522.20	3758.94
2005-06		1925.73	5545.94
2006-07		6029.86	15726.19
2007-08	[August, 07)	2402.89	6444.55

(b) and (c) Government has 55 proposals pending consideration of the FIPB for want of complete information.

SEZ Infocity-II at Orissa

859. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has asked the Orissa Government to expedite their SEZ Infocity-II and Mancheswar Industrial Area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of help, both financial and physical that is proposed to be given by the Centre to achieve the above objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The sector specific SEZ for IT/ITES to be developed by Orissa Industrial Development Corporation (IDCO) at Chandaka Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, has been notified on 18th May, 2007. Formal approval has been granted for setting up of a sector specific SEZ by IDCO for IT/ITES at Bhubaneshwar, PS. Mancheswar, District Khurda, Orissa, on 28th September, 2006. All developers who have been granted formal approvals have been asked to speed up the notification process.

(c) Incentives and facilities offered for setting up of Special Economic Zones include: Duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZ units; 100% Income Tax exemption on export income for SEZ units under Section 10 AA of the Income Tax Act for first 5 years, 50% for next 5 years thereafter and 50% of the

ploughed back export profit for next 5 years; Exemption from minimum alternate tax under section 115JB of the Income Tax Act; Exemption from CST and Service tax; Single window clearance for Central and State level approvals; Exemption from State sales tax and other levies as extended by the respective State Governments.

World class Infrastructure facilities for Exporters

860. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to create world class infrastructurel facilities to help exporters especially of textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) has been in operation since 2005. The basic objective of SITP is to provide world class infrastructure facilities to the textile industry. So far, 30 parks have been sanctioned under the SITP.

Additional administrative and regulatory staff tor SEZs

861. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has so far accorded formal and in-principle approvals for more than 500 Special Economic Zones throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the commissioners of different SEZs have requisitioned additional staff born for administrative and regulatory work including personnel for excise and customs; and

(c) whether it would be more expedient, that creation of posts and posting of officials for SEZs be done alongwith the notification of an SEZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The creation of posts for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can be taken up only for notified SEZs. Sanctions for creation of 1526 posts have been issued during mis year.

FTA with Brazil and South Africa

862. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has concluded talks with Brazil and South Africa with regard to entering into Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks;